

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9698

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION IN LAPPEENRANTA

AMBASSADOR AUSTAD, ACCOMPANIED BY 3 EMBASSY OFFICERS, VISITED LAPPEENRANTA, SOUTHERN KARELIA'S MAJOR CITY, TO COMMEMORATE BICENTENNIAL AND EXTEND CONTACTS WITH POLITICAL, MEDIA, EDUCATIONAL, LABOR AND BUSINESS LEADERSHIP.

THE AMBASSADOR'S PROGRAM INCLUDED MEETINGS WITH THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN. RECTOR AND PROFESSORS OF THE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY, MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES LABOR AND BUSINESS LEADERS.

AS PART OF PROGRAM, AMBASSADOR OPENED SPECIALLY ARRANGED BOOK EXHIBIT ON U.S. AT PROVINCIAL LIBRARY AND POLITICAL COUNSELOR SPOKE AT COMMERCIAL COLLEGE ON U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. IN NEW TWIST, POST PRODUCED 10 MINUTE TAPE ON DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND BICENTENNIAL EVENTS, WHICH ENABLED US TO COVER ALL FIVE GYMNASIUMS IN LAPPEENRANTA AREA.

HIGHPOINTS OF PROGRAM WERE TWO OFFICIAL BICENTENNIAL EVENTS ARRANGED BY FINNISH-AMERICAN SOCIETY CHAPTER. AT THE FIRST ONE, AMBASSADOR DELIVERED BRIEF REMARKS, FOLLOWED BY POLITICAL COUNSELOR'S LECTURE IN FINNISH ON U.S. FOREIGN POLICY. NORMALLY RETICENT FINNS KEPT POL. COUNSELOR ANSWERING QUESTIONS FOR HALF AN HOUR.

THE SECOND EVENT FEATURED AN ADDRESS BY THE AMBASSADOR, REMARKS BY THE MAYOR, PERFORMANCES BY THE LOCAL MEN'S CHOIR AND

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USIS SPONSORED FOLK SINGER.

PRESS COVERAGE WAS EXCELLENT. NEWSPAPERS FROM LAPPEENRANTA, IMATRA AND KOUVOLA GAVE HEAVY COVERAGE TO AMBASSADOR'S VISIT AND BICENTENNIAL. MOST OF COVERAGE WAS IN LOCAL CENTER PARTY NEWSPAPER ETELA-SAIMAA (CIRCULATION 31,000), WHICH CARRIED FULL PAGE OF ARTICLES ON BICENTENNIAL AND AMBASSADOR'S VISIT.

POST HAS FOUND IPS PROVIDED ARTICLES VERY USEFUL IN CONNECTION WITH VISITS, ESPECIALLY BARRY BROWN PIECE "IDEA OF AMERICA."
AUSTAD

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: SCUL, FI, US
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